



## DECISION MEMO

### Moose Meadow Special Use Permits

USDA Forest Service  
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest  
Pintler Ranger District  
Granite County, Montana

T. 5N., R. 13W., Sec. 5 and T. 6N., R. 13W., Sec. 32

### Background

The Pintler Ranger District received an inquiry from a landowner to utilize an existing non-system road (un-numbered) and improve an existing two-track road from the road across a short stretch of NFS land to his parcel. The non-system road is currently used by an adjacent landowner for ingress/egress and is recognized by Granite County as Moose Meadow Lane.

### Decision

I have decided to issue Private Road Special Use Permits authorizing the landowners to access their private property and maintain the existing route. The widening of the two-track route will require the removal of less than 20 trees, many of which are standing dead lodgepole pine. The two-track is located between Moose Meadow Lane and a clear-cut parcel and is within a ¼ mile of Discovery and Red Lion roads. The permits will allow use and maintenance of an area approximately 14 feet wide and 750 feet long or 0.24 acres located in Sec 5, T.5N., R.13W. & Sec 32, T.6N., R.13W.

### Design Features Required by this Decision

The following design features are hereby made part of my decision and are described by resource area below:

Vegetation: Noxious weeds will be controlled following procedures in the Noxious Weed Control Program ROD (2002) for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Heritage: If cultural resource sites or artifacts are discovered during project implementation the Forest Archeologist should be notified immediately.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as 32.2(3) Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land; 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3). This category of action(s) is applicable because it entails permitting the installation of a driveway and use of an existing road incidental to use of a residence.



Based on my review of the project record, I find that there are no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. I considered resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist:

- ◆ Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species: There are several roads, including this one, into this private property that are already considered open for wildlife analysis. There is no change on the ground. No Effect for grizzly bear and Canada lynx, no jeopardy for wolverine, and No Impact for all sensitive species.
- ◆ Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds: Project is not in a municipal watershed. No effects to floodplains. There are no RCAs or wetlands associated with this project. The access is existing two tracks and no new ground disturbance will occur.
- ◆ Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas: This project is not within a Congressionally designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Area, or National Recreation Area.
- ◆ Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas: This project is not within an IRA or potential wilderness area.
- ◆ Research natural areas: This project is not in a Research Natural Area.
- ◆ American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites: No sites located within the project area.
- ◆ Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas: No sites located within the project area.

## Public Involvement

This action was originally listed as a proposal on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BDNF) Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) and updated periodically during the analysis. Scoping was initiated on August 13, 2020 and a scoping packet, which included a project description and map of the project area, was sent to interested parties. The same scoping packet was also made available digitally on the BDNF's current and recent project website.

The scoping letter requested input be submitted to the Forest Service by September 11, 2020 and included a contact phone number, fax number, and email address as a means of providing comments, concerns, or ideas. By September 11, 2020, no comments were received.

## Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

This decision is consistent with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Land Management Plan (2009). The project was designed in conformance with Forest Plan direction including all applicable standards, objectives, and guidelines. The proposed action is consistent with all other Federal, State, and local laws and requirements.



## Administrative Review Opportunities

Decisions made under Categorical Exclusions are not subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218. The special use permit holder, however, may appeal this decision pursuant to Department of Agriculture regulations found at 36 CFR 214.

## Implementation Date

This decision is not subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218 and may begin immediately. Work is expected to commence in November 2020.

## Contact

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Cameron Rasor, District Ranger, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Pintler Ranger District, 88 Business Loop, Philipsburg, MT, 59858, (406) 859-3211.

11/4/2020

CAMERON L RASOR  
District Ranger

Date

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